

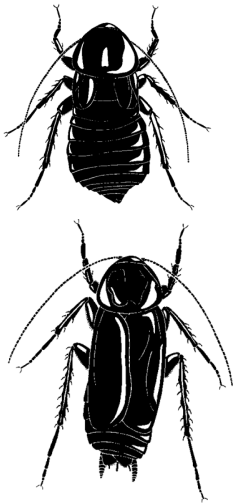
Oriental Cockroaches

Oriental cockroaches, *Blatta orientalis* L., are large, slow moving, shiny, black-colored insects. They are known by a variety of other common names including: *black beetles* or *water bugs*. Females are slightly larger than males, and have short wings. Both sexes are about 1 inch long. Males have wings and can fly, but rarely do so in California. Females cannot fly, the wings are simply too small.

Like other urban cockroaches, Oriental cockroaches have been transported by human commerce throughout the world. In situations around homes they are most commonly found in cool, damp areas, particularly in garages. During the summer months they can also become quite common under dense, shaded ground cover in yards, particularly under beds of ivy. However, these cockroaches are generally only found

outside near areas where food and moisture is available, particularly near where food is left outside for pets. Garages are commonly infested, particularly if pet food or other kinds of dried food are stored there or are left out for animals. It is uncommon for this cockroach to become a pest in the house. However, in regions with mild climates these roaches can develop large outdoor populations that spill indoors as well as into rural areas.

The best way to prevent infestation by Oriental cockroaches, or eliminate existing populations, is to remove all possible sources of food. Keep garages and yards clean, and make sure that any food stored in in the garage is kept in plastic, glass or metal containers with tight fitting lids. Pets should not be fed in the yard or garage, or if they are then food should never be left out for any length of time.



Oriental cockroach,
female top, male bottom.



Female oriental cockroach. Photo courtesy of Alex Wild, myrmecos.com.